

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY.

**Progressive Methods in the Business.
Shoddy Versus Wool.**

While it is true some of Arizona's pioneer stockmen are, and have been for the past three or four years, somewhat "indisposed," the business is all right, and they (I should have said "we") will be all right in due time, for the fact is that an Arizonan knows how to accept so-called defeat. It is truly said that "defeat turns bone to flint; it is defeat that turns gristle to muscle; it is defeat that makes men invincible; it is defeat that has made those heroic natures that are now in the ascendancy, and that has given the sweet law of liberty for the bitter law of oppression. Do not, therefore, be afraid of defeat. You are never so near victory as when you are defeated in a good cause." Is not our "cause," the stock interests, "a good cause?" I think so. So what is defeat? A tonic. I once heard a minister say that they spoiled a good carpenter when they made a preacher out of him. If you are a good stockman stay with it.

Being more conversant with the sheep industry, I will dwell upon that line. It would be simply a repetition of what has been so often written to refer at length to the advantages offered by Arizona as a sheep and wool growing country. The consumption of mutton is growing in our country and the population is on a rapid increase, hence there will be a growing demand for mutton sheep. The late Colonel Hollister of California remarked "that so long as babies are born without clothes there would be a demand for wool." There is every reason to believe the demand will continue.

Every section of our land is peculiarly adapted to some particular breed of sheep, and where owners of uncultivated land are permitting it to lie idle

they are the losers. Northern Arizona being an exclusive range country, the combination (wool and mutton) sheep is well adapted for this section. Any of the "down" breeds crossed with the Merino would make a very desirable sheep. Care must be taken, however, not to breed too high, for when you go beyond a three-quarter blood they do not do so well. They seem to lose that rustling quality so essential when they have to travel, at times, some distance between feed and water. Arizona contains an immense acreage of pasture lands which could, after careful investigation, be stocked with the breed of sheep well adapted for that particular section, and make good interest on the investment.

We are glad to make mention of "up-to-date" people in our midst, and we find them in the management of the S. F., P. & P. railroad in their recent purchase of a sheep shearing machine to be set up near Phoenix for the use of those wintering in that favored section. We look forward with pleasure to the time when these progressive methods will be extensively used in our territory. It is time we had many natural advantages in the territory, but we are most unfortunate in regard to freight rates on wool to the Atlantic seaboard. The rate from Arizona to Boston is \$2.45 per 100 pounds; from Montana and the Dakotas, \$1.50; from Wyoming, Idaho, eastern Oregon and Utah, \$1.50; from Colorado, \$2. While all the states mentioned pay less freight than we do, they pay out large amounts for hay for winter feed, which we do not. Foreign countries have the best of all of us. From South America to New York, Boston and Philadelphia the cost is about \$1.17 per 100 pounds; from Turkey, 70 cents; from South Africa, \$1.15; from Russia, 55 cents; from China, 65 cents by sailing vessel and 30 cents by steamship; from Australia, \$1.92, and